Adoption of two-child norm

1834. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) Government's response to the introduction and adoption of two-child norm by various State Governments like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, etc. by discouraging all the benefits and facilities under Government schemes to parents giving birth to third Child and also debar them from contesting any election like Panchayat and Municipal Corporation; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard and the remedial measures proposed to be taken for population control in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Govt, of India stands by its commitment towards voluntary and informed choice while availing of reproductive health services and continuation of target free approach in administering family welfare services. It does not advocate inclusion of coercive measure and disincentives in the State's population policies.

(b) Government has requested States to undertake a review of their Population Policies to harmonize with the letter and spirit of the National Population Policy, 2000. A National Level Resource Committee has also been constituted in the Department of Family Welfare to assist States in formulating the State population Policies.

To achieve population stabilisation goals, various initiatives have been taken. For focusing on the demographically lagging States, an Empowered Action Group has been constituted in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Government seeks to achieve population stabilisation by improving health services by strengthening health infrastructure and availability of trained manpower, expanding the basket of contraceptives and facilitating easy access and availability of the same, improving health care service for mothers and child through public-private partnership and by motivating people for voluntary adoption of family planning methods through a comprehensive and sustained behavioural change communication campaign.